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State Prisoners

Release of Chettali Beyumma, a detenue at Mangalore.

*1236 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to my question No. 1922 answered on 29th March 1926, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government now propose to cancel the orders passed on the detention of Chettali Beyumma, a Mappilla State prisoner detained at Mangalore, and allow her to return to her native place in view of the peaceful condition of Malabar at present?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"Are the Government still afraid of this old woman?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Government are afraid in the sense that, if she is allowed to go back to Malabar, she is likely to perpetrate mischiefs like those she committed some years ago."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"What is her age, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The answer has been given to the hon. Member four times already in reply to previous questions; her age is about 70."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know if the Government are afraid that this old hag will be able to do mischief in any way?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The old hag, in the phraseology of the hon. Member, did very abominable acts in effecting forcible conversions of Hindus into Muhammadanism"

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"May I know the last occasion when the hon. Member made enquiries?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The last occasion was about three weeks ago."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"What is the source of information, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The source of information is the report of the District Magistrate."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"May I know whether the Government have received any application through the Collector?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Yes, as far as I can remember."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"May I know what the recommendation of the Collector is?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Collector of Malabar and the District Superintendent of Police are strongly against her being sent back to Malabar."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"May I know, Sir, if she is able to commit any offences when she is so old and unable to walk and see properly?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"She is not so old as not to be able to commit mischief."

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Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju :—"May I know how long has she been out of Malabar?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Ever since she was deported after the Malabar rebellion."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju :—"May I ask if the opinion of the District Magistrate of Malabar is of greater weight than that of the people of South Kanara, where she is living?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It is the opinion of the Collector of Malabar that counts in a matter of this kind."

(Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar and some other Congress Members wanted to put questions.)

The hon. the President :—"When the Leader of the Party is putting supplementary questions, it is common courtesy to be expected of other Members to allow him to finish them."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"I am told that he has finished putting questions."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju :—"May I ask if the District Magistrate of South Kanara is of the opinion that she is inoffensive and that she may be taken away?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"So far as I can remember, no, Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"May I ask if it is the opinion of the hon. the Law Member that the resources of the Government are so powerless that the Government are afraid of this 80 years' old lady?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The Government have no resources whatever to prevent mischievous persons from doing mischiefs."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"May I know if the Government have taken the opinion of Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar, a representative of Malabar some time back, on this matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The opinion of Krishnan Nayar is the same as that of the District Magistrate of Malabar."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"May I know if this mighty and powerful Government are afraid of this 80 years' old lady?"

The hon. the President :—"This is repeating a supplementary question which has already been answered."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"May I ask whether the Government have ascertained the nature of the abominable acts which this woman is alleged to have committed in the course of conversion of Hindus into Muslims and whether they got the information from the Collector of Malabar or from independent source as to the truth of these allegations?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The Government have convinced themselves that the reports regarding the atrocities committed by this woman are true."

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Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know if the Government think that she would commit the same forcible conversions now ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" More or less."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether there were any instances of forcible conversions after the rebellion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because no persons were given opportunities of doing so."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Do the Government think there are opportunities for any person to commit forcible conversions now ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I think so."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know what abominable acts she is likely to commit ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I cannot give information as to the acts which she is likely to commit."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" May I ask if the Government will be pleased to increase her allowance in consideration of her old age and weakness ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The District Magistrate thinks that the allowance, viz., Rs. 12 per mensem and the extra allowance for clothing, is ample and with that allowance she is able to live more comfortably in South Kanara than in Malabar."

Finance

Subjects discussed at the Finance Members' Conference at Delhi.

* 1237 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the subjects which were discussed at the recent Finance Members' Conference at Delhi ;

(b) whether that Conference discussed any matter to be placed before the Simon Commission ; and

(c) whether as a result of the deliberations or decisions of that Conference, the Government propose to make any change in the financial relations between the Madras Government and the Government of India, and if so, of what nature and when ?

A.—The Local Government are not authorized to state what subjects were discussed at Conferences convened by the Government of India. The agenda of the Conference was not concerned with any political or financial issues arising out of the enquiries of the Simon Commission.

Madras Record office

Pay and powers of the Curator, Madras Record office.

* 1238 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what is the present pay of the Officiating Curator, Madras Central Record office, and what is his pay in his permanent appointment in the Educational Department ;